

CE SCORNE

Electric Shock Therapy Gets Second Look

By LOIS TIMNICK

Times Human Behavior Writer

Selma looked especially chipper for a severely depressed woman about to have an electric current shot through her brain.

Casually dressed in a sweater and slacks, her blue eyeshadow and lipstick carefully applied, she stretched out on the treatment table and smiled up at her psychiatrist.

"The other patients have noticed how much livelier I am," she said. "I hope so; my husband is fed up and I'm afraid he'll leave me if I don't get better."

The 65-year-old woman is one of more than 100,000 people a year in the U.S. getting electroconvulsive therapy, a treatment for depression that is drawing a second look after years of scorn.

Selma's doctor, Dr. George Wayne, explained that she would be asleep in a few seconds as he injected a vein in her left arm with Brevital, a short-acting barbiturate anesthetic, and Robinul, a substance that cuts down on bodily secretions, then with the muscle relaxant Anectine.

Two electrodes leading to a small machine in a white travel case were attached to the right side of her forehead and right temple with jelly and an elastic headband. A rubber bite plate was placed in her mouth. Holding an oxygen mask over her nose, Wayne pulsed the gas into her lungs until she flushed bright pink. A nurse and technician stood on either side of the bed, taking her pulse and watching.

Wayne turned the dials to 140 volts, seven-tenths of a second, and pushed the button marked "TREAT."

Selma's entire body clenched and twitched into a convulsion that lasted

A related article appears on Page 1 of Part IV.



A LETTER FROM TEHRAN—Teacher Karen Mackney and fourth graders at a Landisville, N.J., parochial school read a note from American hostage Robert C. Ode, thanking them for

their Christmas greetings. He also wrote to the Washington Post about his imprisonment. His letters were among those received by 16 persons in the past few days from nine hostages.

Associated Press photo

Plan Would Ban 75% of California Building at Tahoe

By ROBERT A. JONES
Times Staff Writer

Development controls for the Lake Tahoe basin that would prohibit construction on 75% of existing lots along the lake's California side were proposed Thursday by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The board's plan represents the strongest action ever taken by California to reverse the increasing degradation of Lake Tahoe, still regarded as one of the purest bodies of fresh

REAGAN FACING UP TO HIS AGE BY FLAUNTING IT

By WILLIAM ENDICOTT
Times Staff Writer

STAMFORD, Conn.—Ronald Reagan was in the middle of an interview as his chartered campaign jet began descending for a landing recently, but he made no effort to stifle a yawn.

Turning to his interviewer, he quickly explained that he was not yawning because he was tired, only because he was trying to unplug his ears.

Ordinarily a yawn might not require an explanation. That Reagan felt compelled to offer one was a revealing indication of the sensitivity he and his staff feel about the issue of his age as he campaigns for

Afghans Expel All U.S. Newsmen for 'Interference'

From Times Wire Services

KABUL, Afghanistan—This country's Soviet-backed government Thursday ordered American journalists out of Afghanistan, accusing them of biased reporting and "interference in the country's internal affairs."

The expulsion order, relayed through the U.S. Embassy here, goes into effect today. It came three days after the U.S. ordered American journalists out of Iran. The Iranian

MILITARY OPTION FOREMOST

Russia vs. Iran: U.S. Ponders Unthinkable

By JACK NELSON and ROBERT C. TOTH
Times Staff Writers

WASHINGTON—The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the possibility of additional moves against Iran or Pakistan, has given rise to grave concern among White House and other national security officials about the ultimate unthinkable possibility—war with the Soviet Union.

Such a war, officials believe, almost certainly would become a nuclear war because the United States has concentrated on its nuclear capability rather than on matching the Soviet Union's massive strength in conventional warfare.

No Carter Administration official has discussed such a possibility on the record. Among themselves and in background briefings with The Times, however, White House and other senior officials dealing with national security say that if the Soviet Union carries its expansionism into Iran or Pakistan, the United States will have little choice but to oppose it militarily.

There would be no other way, the officials assert, for the United States to protect its vital interests in a region that supplies the imported oil that this country, Western Europe and Japan cannot live without.

"The United States would not at all be comfortable with the Soviet Union sitting on Iran's oil fields," one Defense Department official remarked drily as he considered the options this country would face if the Soviet Union continued its military advances. "Nor would the NATO countries be comfortable with that."

While an assortment of economic, political and diplomatic responses to new Russian military thrusts could be tried, most specialists doubt that they would be effective. And when officials discuss the military options now available to the United States, they use words like *horrendous* and *scary* and raise the specter of World War III.

Similarly, National Security

visiting editors this week, said that if the Soviets invade Iran, "it would be very unfortunate and we wouldn't want to, but obviously we would have to help that country."

The official's remark—made at a time when the regime of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini continues to scorn all efforts to free the 50 American hostages held by Iranian militants in Tehran—illustrates the almost overnight upheaval that the Afghan invasion has produced in Washington's view of the world.

Only days ago, it was impossible to imagine any Carter Administration official talking about making common cause with Khomeini on anything. Now, brought face to face with the possibility of direct conflict with the Soviet Union in the volatile Middle East, officials are discussing ways to show the ayatollah that his quarrel with the United States is almost trivial compared with the Russian threat.

Inside the White House, there seems to be no sense of urgency or tension as President Carter's aides go about their daily tasks. "It's not like the tenseness during the Cuban missile crisis (in 1962)," one senior aide to the President said. "It's more a sense of great frustration. There's a sense that we're on the right course in keeping the non-military heat on the Soviets and that they realize they've made a mistake in Afghanistan because of the world reaction against the invasion."

Nevertheless, the President has called the invasion the greatest threat to world peace since World War II and has said that a Soviet-occupied Afghanistan "threatens both Iran and Pakistan and is a steppingstone to their possible control over much of the world's oil supplies."

On this point, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security advisor, said in a recently published interview. "The United States has a vital interest in the stability of that re-



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